code, which identifies the person detected by the sensor, from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory on the basis of the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory within the stored authentication area .

In the claims:

On page 10, cancel line 1, and substitute the following left-hand justified heading therefor:

We Claim as Our Invention:

Please cancel claims 1-6, without prejudice, and substitute the following claims therefor:

7. An apparatus for biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area containing biometric features, comprising:

a sensor having an identification area for detecting biometric features of a part of the authentication area which is situated on the identification area,

a comparison device for comparing the detected biometric features with biometric features, stored in a memory, of a part of the authentication area of at least one authorized person to determine a relative position of the detected biometric features of a first detected region within the part of the authentication area; and

a computation device for calculating an identification code, which identifies the person detected by the sensor, from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory based on the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory within the stored authentication area.

8. An apparatus for biometric identification of a person as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor detects a fingerprint, and the authentication area includes those parts of the possible fingerprint area of a finger which are not used to calculate the identification code.

9. A method for biometric identification of a person, who has an authentication area containing biometric features, the method comprising the steps of:

storing biometric features of a part of the authentication area of at least one authorized person;

detecting biometric features of the part of the person's authentication area which is situated on the identification area;

comparing the detected biometric features with the stored biometric features of the authentication area to determine a relative position of the detected biometric features within the stored part of the authentication area; and

calculating an identification code which identifies the person detected by the sensor from the detected biometric features which are not stored in the memory based on the relative position of the biometric features which are stored in the memory within the stored authentication area.

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10. A method for biometric identification of a person as claimed in claim 3, wherein biometric features of a person's fingerprint are detected, and the authentication area includes those parts of the possible fingerprint areas of a finger of the person which are not used to calculate the identification code.

11. A method for biometric identification of a person as claimed in claim 3, wherein a first region containing biometric features which are stored in the memory completely surrounds a second region containing biometric features which are not stored in the memory.

12. A method for biometric identification of a person as claimed in claim 5, wherein an identification code is calculated only if the detected first region forms a closed ring, surrounding the second region, containing biometric features.